

DETRITUS

ANDROMEDA - PLAYING OFF THE BOARD (DVD) (A-/B+) Metal Mind/MVD, 2007

RT: 205:00

[<http://www.andromedaonline.com/>]

[<http://www.mvdb2b.com/>]

[<http://www.metalmind.com.pl/>]

[<http://www.myspace.com/metalmindproductions>] [

<http://www.metalopolis.pl/>] Metal Mind does it again with this

excellent DVD of Andromeda's October

2006 performance in Katowice, Poland. I was familiar with the name but honestly this was my first real exposure to Andromeda, and I'm happy to say they have made an impressive introduction! PLAYING OFF THE BOARD shows the band in fine form as they attempt to enliven a somewhat nonchalant crowd apparently there to witness follow-up bands Neo and Pendragon (the DVD was shot on the same night as the Pendragon and Neo live DVDs reviewed in Detritus #411 and #414, respectively). Polite but lukewarm audience response aside, these pros wow with plenty of technique and a good selection of songs, executing with practiced ease such challenging material as melodic opener "Periscope," chop-heavy instrumental "Chameleon Carnaval," "Inner Circle" with its heavy mid-section riffs, and energetic closing number "The Words Unspoken." Singer David Fremberg's powerful and impassioned vocals are a bit of an acquired taste but serve to add a unique element to the music, helping the band steer clear of the usual Dream Theater comparisons; actually, to my ears Andromeda are more comparable to U.K. prog wizards Threshold. The DVD is wonderfully filmed with a great sound (I used the 2.0 mix), and includes a lot of bonus material consisting of interviews, amateur footage of the band having fun as they trek through Europe, older live footage, a bio, photo gallery and discography. Andromeda fans need to score a copy of this immediately, and I'd easily recommend PLAYING OFF THE BOARD to those not yet savvy to Andromeda's artistry...

- Neal Woodall (MysticX9@gmail.com)

Detritus Rock/Metal e-zine

"Rock Hard With A Purpose"

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Detritus/>

<http://www.myspace.com/detritusezine>